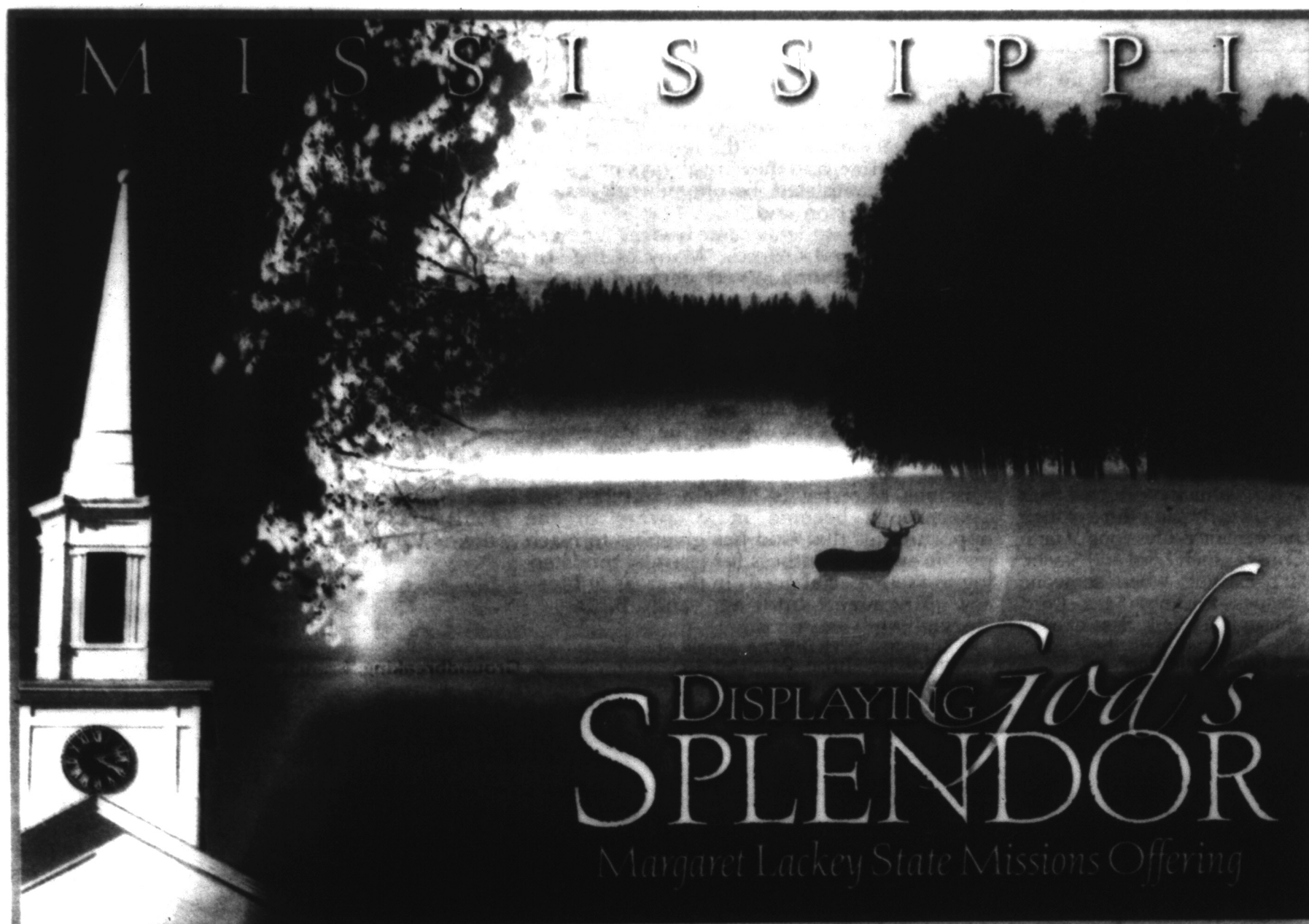


# THE BAPTIST *Record*

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION



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## How Can Your Church Display God's Splendor?

- When we allow the Spirit of the Lord to empower and direct our lives we "Display God's Splendor."
- When we pray for God to mobilize our churches for missional performance we "Display God's Splendor."
- When our personal generosity results in a record-setting offering for mission needs in Mississippi, we "Display God's Splendor."
- When mission volunteers are sent from our state around the world for kingdom assignments, we "Display God's Splendor."
- When school age children receive missionary training at summer camp, we "Display God's Splendor."
- When prisoners, illiterate, and jobless people find instruction and encouragement for transforming their lives, we "Display God's Splendor."
- When lost people hear the gospel and find fellowship in a new church plant, we "Display God's Splendor."
- All of these ministries are fulfilled when your church participates in the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Please join us in ...

... *"Displaying God's Splendor!"*



# MISSISSIPPI

## Souls being saved through literacy missions

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

As the adult education coordinator for the Grenada School District for the past 13 years, Cindy Heimbach has helped start her share of adult education programs. "I've been all over the state of Mississippi, training people on how to start adult education programs and helping them get the programs going," she said.

However, one of the most rewarding adult education start-ups for her doesn't have anything to do with her day job. It's the English as a Second Language (ESL) class that she teaches at Temple Church in Grenada.

"We're teaching English, but we're pointing out the Gospel in the process," said Heimbach, a member of Emmanuel Church, Grenada. She is assisted in the ESL class by fellow Emmanuel Church member Karen Robertson, who has posted a successful career in accounting and business.

Since the two women conducted their first ESL class in early June, three of their students have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

"It's exciting when someone comes to know the Lord through the ESL class experience. You can feel their joy," Heimbach said. "It is obvious that the Holy Spirit is in this."

Robertson echoed Heimbach's observation. "When we open the doors each week, the Holy Spirit comes in with us. The students can feel that," she said.

The ESL class is held at Temple Church because the pastor and church members have been so accommodating

since the beginning — even providing refreshments for the students and teachers. Heimbach also said she believes Temple's smaller size is less intimidating to the students.

"The students are very attentive; they appreciate this opportunity to learn English and are very much into the lessons. They are always on time, and they are always prepared. They have completed their homework assignments," Robertson said.

Some of the students come from as far away as Batesville and Oxford. "Many of the students work full time in very demanding jobs, but they always clean up and dress up before they come to class, and they're ready to learn. You can tell this means a lot to them."

Heimbach and Robertson are part of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Mississippi Literacy Missions Ministry, coordinated by Paula Smith in the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Department.

"The object of the Mississippi Literacy Missions Ministry is to help churches and associations become more aware of the opportunities that God has given us to reach people and be a witness for Jesus by ministering to their special needs in the areas of literacy, language, tutoring, and Bible Storytelling," Smith said.

There are 5 different areas of ministry in literacy missions: English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Reading and Writing (ARW), Tutoring Children and Youth (TCY), English as a Foreign Language (EFL), and Chronological Bible Storying (CBS).

"At any given time, there are over 50 ministries going on with an average of 600 students and 200 teachers. This fluctuates with the time of year and training schedule. Combined, Mississippi Literacy Missions Ministries have had students from some 77 different nations attend classes. This is an opportunity for churches to virtually have a foreign mission project in its own neighborhood. We are aware of two church starts because of ESL classes in the last couple of years," Smith said.

"There are 14 trainers in our state willing to come to your church or association and lead a 14-hour workshop to train others how to begin a literacy ministry in your area. This training certifies you with the North American Mission Board," she pointed out.

The Mississippi Literacy Missions Ministry is supported by the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, which will provide \$44,000 for the ministry from total \$2.2 million offering goal for 2007.

Smith can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3336, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 336. E-mail: psmith@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

GETTING PREPARED — Cindy Heimbach (left) and Karen Robertson review materials to be used during the English as a Second Language class they teach at Temple Church in Grenada. Since starting the class in early June, three of their students have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



# Displaying God's Splendor

## Church plant reaching out to unchurched, unsaved

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

David Michel, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) associate executive director for mission strategy, surveys statistics that indicate over 50% of Mississippi's present population don't attend church anywhere, and arrives at one unmistakable conclusion: Mississippi Baptists should not be under the impression that they already have enough churches.

Out of that realization was born the church planting department in the division Michel oversees at the convention board, headed by longtime Mississippi pastor Ed Deuschle. With funding supplied in part by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO), the department is helping to dispel any idea that Mississippi Baptists can just sit back and enjoy the churches they have on line right now.

"Seven church plants graduated from our funding support (in 2006) and are functioning on their own. Twelve plants were started and 33 plants received MLSMO support. These plants reported 783 professions of faith, 513 joining by letter, and 279 baptisms.

"These plants gave over \$119,000 to the Cooperative Program, \$55,000 to local Associations, \$92,000 to Southern Baptist mission causes, and \$6,500 to MLSMO. Mission trips were taken in Mississippi, North America, and on International mission fields," Deuschle said.

That's quite a record for one of the MBCB's youngest departments.

Cornerstone Church in Purvis is part of that success story. Once a recipient of church planting funds, the church is now on its own after a little over three years and is averaging around 45 people for Sunday worship.

The church met in an auto parts store before moving to their present location at Lamar Christian School outside Purvis.

"We're not necessarily trying to do something better; we're trying to do something different," said Pastor Brian Williamson. "A majority of our members come from a non-church background. Many of our leaders have never been in a position of church leadership. We want to equip people to share the Gospel who may have never done so before coming to Cornerstone."

That's the type of person Cornerstone Church seeks in the Purvis and Lamar County area. Williamson stresses that the church is more interested in bringing in unchurched — and unsaved — people, rather than being populated by those who are simply switching their membership from another local church.

"We have a solid core group with a good age span. The question we have asked ourselves is, 'How can we reach the people we want to reach while establishing a ministry base?'"

The answer thus far has been to purchase a large swath of property that was once a motorcycle dirt track on Highway 11 just north of Purvis, with a vision for a church there that will serve the surrounding rural area in many ways.

"Our vision is to build a church that will be a ministry people can use all during the week. We truly want it to be a community center. In this part of Lamar County, we see this as an almost limitless opportunity."

The son of a U.S. Air Force officer, Williamson served as a U.S. Army artillery officer for 14 years. He currently does double duty as Cornerstone Church pastor and youth minister at First Church, Purvis.

"I'll never forget meeting Brian Williamson for the very first time," Deuschle said. "I immediately perceived his vision and passion for planting a new church in the Purvis area that would be evangelistic, missional, innovative, contemporary — and reach people in that area who were unchurched, not Christian, or just people in general who felt uncomfortable attending established traditional churches."

Deuschle said the Mississippi Baptist Convention, in partnership with First Church, Sumrall, Lamar Association in Purvis, and other interested donors were able to help Williamson's dream become reality.

"The Margaret Lackey Missions Offering invested \$50,000 over a three year-period and today, Cornerstone Church is established and functioning on its own and making a difference in the community and the world."

"In order to reach the more than two million unchurched Mississippians, we need more God-called planters like Brian to be supported by local churches, associations, and of course those valuable MLSMO dollars."

"I am proud to be associated with Mississippi Baptists," Deuschle said.

Deuschle can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3224 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 224. E-mail: edeuschle@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbc.org.

Williamson can be reached at bigwilliebw@yahoo.com, or telephone (601) 601-408-7017.



**BUILDING PLANS** — Brian Williamson, pastor of Cornerstone Church in Purvis, looks over property the three-year-old church plant has purchased for the community-based church the congregations plans to build to reach the surrounding rural community. In the background is an Army surplus tent church members utilize when meeting on the property. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



## Offering Ministry Descriptions

### State Goal - \$2,220,000

#### Associational Mission Projects - \$200,000

Margaret Lackey funding helps empower local mission initiatives in evangelism and community ministry. For information call David Michel at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3231.

#### Camp Garywa - \$350,000

Home to over 1,000 girls each summer and year-round retreats. For information call Kay Caselary (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3318.

#### Central Hills - \$350,000

Serves as an exceptional 540-acre, year-round facility for church retreats and summer camp for boys. For information call Jim Ray at (601) 292-3730.

#### Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps - \$16,000

Men and women are paired with Christian mentors in order to gain life and job skills that will help them reach economic independence. For information call Tammy Anderson at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3323.

#### Church Planting - \$400,000

Provides financial assistance and training for church planters to penetrate hushes across our state. For information call Ed Deaschle at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3224.

#### Criminal Justice Ministries - \$50,000

Employs prison volunteers and provides leaders, Bibles, and other resources to inmates. For information call Charles Jones at (662) 846-7676.

#### Cross Cultural Outreach - \$44,000

Recognizes the various language, ethnic and culture groups in Mississippi, and offers gospel insight through leadership training and missional strategies. For information call David Alexander at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3364.

#### Disaster Relief - \$50,000

Over 200 members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Team work with communities as first responders to give care and hope in crisis. For information call Jim Didlake at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3338.

#### College & University Outreach - \$50,000

Provides program assistance for campus ministry to International and African-American students, and missions mobilization assistance for those involved in campus and church student ministries. For information, contact Weaver McCracken at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3299.

#### Literacy - \$20,000

Trains leaders to teach other people to read and speak English, providing an open door for sharing the Gospel message. For information call Paula Smith at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3336.

#### Pastoral Benevolence - \$40,000

Provides financial relief and counseling for ministers and their families recovering from professional turmoil. For information call Steve Stone at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3225.

#### Volunteer Missionary Assistance - \$650,000

Assists short-term volunteers from Mississippi Baptist churches to serve in North American and International Missions. For information call Ken Rhodes at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3239.

# MLSMO helps when need is greatest

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Forced termination of Mississippi Baptist pastors and ministers is an uncomfortable subject most people prefer to avoid, much like the dirty laundry of a dysfunctional family. It happens, though, somewhere in Mississippi several times each month.

The term, "forced termination," is itself harsh and off-putting. Although it takes many forms, forced termination generally refers to a situation in a church where the pastor or a minister at that church is compelled to give up his position through a formal vote of the church body or by intense pressure to resign.

Forced termination at a church is the business world equivalent of getting fired — and just as in the business world, force-terminated pastors and ministers often find themselves with no income or benefits as a result.

"I never dreamed in 40 years of preaching that this could happen to me," said one Mississippi Baptist pastor who was forced to leave his church in 2006. When his short-term severance package ran out at the end of that year, he was left with no income and no way to pay for health insurance and other needs.

Fortunately for the pastors and ministers who find themselves in that situation, Mississippi Baptists have stepped up to help with the pastoral benevolence program in the Church-Minister Relations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

As a result of the program, the unnamed pastor and his family were able to survive until he was called to pastor another church.

"It was a blessing, a tremendous help," the pastor said. "The program paid for health insurance for me and my family, and when my wife developed a health problem during that time she was able to undergo the medical tests and procedures that she needed."

Forced terminations in Mississippi Baptist churches are clearly on the increase, according to Frank Harmon, director of church-minister relations for the convention board.

"There were about 75 forced terminations in 2006, of which we were aware. Last year was our most demanding year in terms of helping

people who found themselves in that situation," Harmon said.

Messengers to the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention have been generous in approving funds each year for the benevolence program through the convention board budget, Harmon said, but those funds have been quickly exhausted as the number of forced terminations has grown.

When that happens, additional emergency funding from the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering (MLSMO) kicks in to keep the program going. A total of \$40,000 in the 2007 MLSMO has been set aside for pastoral benevolence, out of the \$2.2 million goal for the 2007 offering.

"We get tremendous feedback on the pastoral benevolence program," Harmon said. "The people who use the program tell us, 'We can't believe Mississippi Baptists would do this for us.' It's one of the kindest actions we can take on behalf of these people in their hour of need."

For more information on the program, Harmon can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3225 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 225. E-mail: pmay@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

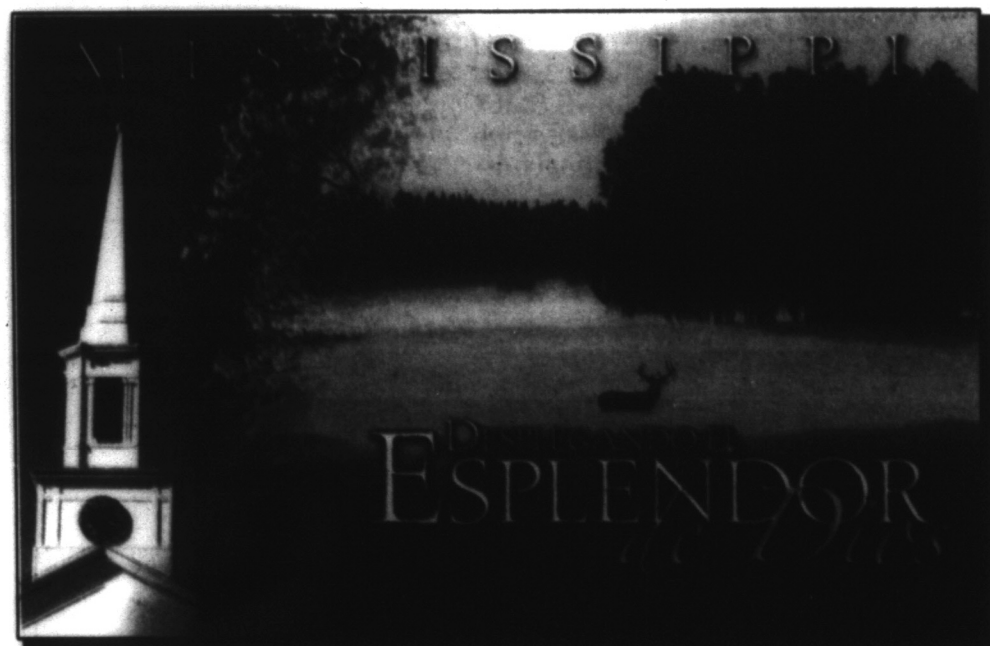
Harmon pointed out the importance of fully funding the state mission offering so pastors, ministers, and their families will know Mississippi Baptists care about them when they most need to hear that message.

"I can't stress that enough," said the unnamed pastor. "I always emphasized the State Missions Offering wherever I pastored, and I always set the bar high because I knew the importance of the offering."

"I tried to put faces on the people the offering supported, but I never thought I'd one day be one of those faces."

"That really brings it home," he said.

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gratis.**



## How to schedule a guest speaker

**Guest speakers are trained to speak in your church on state missions (at no cost to the church). Please contact your speaker of choice directly and schedule a date for your congregation to promote the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.**

**For MBCB Employees — Laura Marler, 800-748-1651 or 601-292-3231.**

**For BSU Directors — Peggy Powell, 800-748-1651 or 601-292-3299.**

**For wMu Special Workers — Stephanie Pruitt, 800-748-1651 or 601-292-3319.**

**For Associational Missions Directors — contact your local association office.**



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

11. **New Orleans Seminary** is hosting **Out of Range**, a prayer initiative that began in 2005, on Aug. 24-25. The conference features David Platt, senior pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., Grammy-award nominee Leeland, and the Andrew Ogea Band. Online registration for the conference is \$25, \$30 on site. For Friday night only, cost is \$10 and \$15, respectively. For more

information, visit [www.outofrange.com](http://www.outofrange.com).

12. **Providence Church, Itawamba Association**, recently honored their elementary and high school students with medallions for their excellence in school. Shown are the recipients.

13. **Carrollton Church, Carrollton**, is hosting a women's conference Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Johnnie

Haines, speaker; Melanie Woods, Andy Rone, and the TOM Girls, music; Zona Pilgreen, chalk art. \$15, including light breakfast and lunch; for more information, call (662) 237-6717 or 237-6326.

14. The wMu of **Noxapater Church, Noxapater**, is hosting a conference for young girls on Christian guidelines for living a God-filled life, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Becky Brown, speaker and music leader. No fee. For registration, call Joan Morris at (662) 724-2204 before Sept. 10.

15. **First Church, Taylorsville**, is offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University,

Sundays, Sept. 9-Dec. 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m.; cost, \$95; call (601) 785-4747, ext. 15, to enroll.

16. **Short Creek Church, Yazoo City**, ordained William Martin Sr. as deacon July 8.

## HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

**Bunker Hill Church, Columbia: Homecoming and 125th anniversary, Aug. 19;** Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; history of church presented, 1 p.m.; celebration and presentation from Baptist Historical Society, 1:30 p.m.; Sam Creel, speaker; The Believers, music.

**Calvary Church, Natchez: Revival, Aug. 19-22;** Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Moss, speaker; Brad Mount, music; Mike Harrigill, pastor.

**College Hill Church, Oxford: Homecoming and 55th anniversary, Aug. 19;** worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and informal sharing and fellowship; Nick Wolf, speaker.

**Vardaman Church, Kemper County: Homecoming and 100th Anniversary, Sept. 2;** worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck dinner on the grounds and service, 2 p.m.; All former pastors, church members, families and/or descendants invited. Scott Harrell and Josh Meadows, pastor, speakers.

**Concord Church, Bruce: Revival, Aug. 19-22;** Sun., 11 a.m. and nightly, 7 p.m.; Junior Ritchey, speaker; Michael and Hope Waldrop and Mark Ritchey, music; Bill Williamson, pastor.

**Emmanuel Church, Laurel: Revival, Aug. 24-26;** Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service, 1 p.m.; Jim Taylor, speaker; Marcus Burnham, pastor.

**Ephesus Church, Forest: 120th Homecoming, Aug. 26;** services, 10:30 a.m., followed by meal and singing, 2 p.m.; Albert McMullan, speaker; Mark Jones, Danny and Nancy Harrison, music.

**Galilee First Church, Gloster: Homecoming, Aug. 18-19;** Sat., 5 p.m. fellowship, finger food buffet, and inspirational gathering, 6:45 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. and noon meal; guest leaders include Victor Walsh, Ed Griffin, Evelyn Lee, Bill Hilbun, Patricia Simmons, Alice Dominic, and Tom McCurley.

**Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point: Homecoming, Aug. 26;** covered dish meal following morning service, and afternoon singing; Greg Foster, speaker; Mitch Green and local talent, music.

**Rolling Creek Church, Quitman: Homecoming, Aug. 19;** Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by fellowship; Billy Brumfield, speaker; **Revival, Aug. 26-29;** Sun., 10:45 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Smith, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

**Shiloh Church, Lawrence County: Homecoming, Aug. 26;** worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch, note burning, and singing; Robert Dunn, speaker; Wayne Hedgepeth, music.

**Short Creek Church, Yazoo City: Revival, Aug. 19-22;** Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dwight Sibley, speaker; Patricia Bunt and Kathleen Bloom, music; Bill Hutto, interim pastor.



12. Students Honored, Providence Church, Itawamba Association

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto



2. Leflore Church, Holcomb

1. **Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto:** Shown are grades 1-6 students; Martha Beavers, director; Keith Smith, pastor.
2. **Leflore Church, Holcomb:** July 23-27; average of 50 students per night, plus teachers and helpers; shown are some of the participants.
3. **First Church, Taylorsville:** June 4-8; 142 enrolled; 129 average attendance; Patti Robey and Marilyn Blakeney, directors.

## STAFF CHANGES



Carter and family

**Calvary Church, Pascagoula** has called Chris Carter as pastor, effective Aug. 5. He is shown with his family: Denise, Tucker, and Reilly Grace.

**Emmanuel Church, Newton Association**, has called Howell Thrash as pastor effective May 27. Thrash is shown with his wife, Dot.



Thrash and wife



## Bibliocipher

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TDU UYA LCPX CZ UYA  
GCPX ARXDPAUY ZCP  
AKAP; ERX UYBM BM UYA  
LCPX LYBNY TQ UYA  
WCMSAG BM SPAENYAX  
DRUC QCD.

ZBPMU SAUAP CRA:

ULARUQ-ZBKA

Clue: D = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark One: Ten.

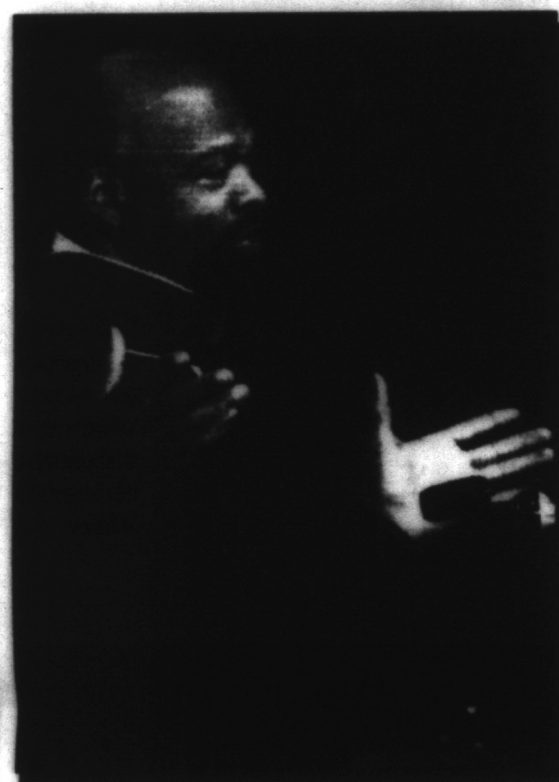
## College News



1. August Graduation Ceremonies, WCU



2. Wheeler earns honorary doctorate of humane letters, WCU



3. Graves speaks at WCU

1. Stan Burton, Mary Ware, Mary Stewart, and Tommy King are shown prior to William Carey University's August graduation ceremonies. Ware was the commencement speaker and received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.
2. Donna Wheeler received an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree at William Carey University during its August graduation ceremonies. Shown are president Tommy King, Wheeler, and husband Milton Wheeler.
3. James E. Graves is shown here addressing the August 2007 graduates of William Carey University. Graves is currently the only African-American on the Mississippi Supreme Court and has served as a justice since 2001. A total of 329 students received degrees.

4. Danny McKenzie, a veteran of 30 years in the daily newspaper business, has been named assistant to the president for marketing and development at Blue Mountain College. He will work closely with president Betty Coward and the BMC family in the areas of general marketing and branding, and in media relations.



McKenzie

## MS Positions

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON,** Miss., is currently seeking applicants for a full-time stewardship secretary position in the Business Office. The position requires good communication skills and the effective use of computer technology. Knowledge of Shelby Systems applications is a plus. Please send a resume to Tommy Vickers, Business Administrator, P. O. Box 250, Jackson, MS 39205, or email to tvickers@fbcj.org.

**BROOKSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH,** Brooksville, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational music director. Send resumes to Janice Kesler, music chairman, 2922 Fire Tower Rd., Crawford, MS 39743.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/MUSIC.** Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of youth and/or music. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

**A GROWING AND VIBRANT GROUP** of believers are seeking God for a bi-vocational music and youth leader at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Bogue Chitto, Miss. Please send resume to 3019 Mt. Pleasant Lane SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629 or contact Mike Martin at (601) 734-6413.

**PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time minister of students. Job requires working with youth and children. Please submit resume to minister of student search committee, P.O. Box 355, Pelahatchie, MS 39145 or email: pbcsearch@gmail.com.

**FBC OLOH** is seeking a part-time music director to instruct choirs and lead worship services. Please call (601) 264-8868 or (601) 408-6005 or email fbcloh@megagate.com.

**RIDGEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH** in Vicksburg, Miss., is seeking a Bi-vocational pastor. Please send resumes to Ridgeway Baptist Church c/o Jimmy Chester, 331 Dillon Ridge Road, Vicksburg, MS 39183, Attn: pastor search committee.

**ROSE HILL FBC, ROSE HILL, MS** is seeking a bi-vocational worship leader/minister of music. Please send resumes to Rose Hill FBC P.O. Box 1 Rose Hill, MS 39356, attn: Worship Leader search committee. Or email ebmartin@bayspringstel.net. View website: www.rosehillfbc.org. Pastor: Bro. Eddie Martin.

**ARE YOU LOOKING TO SERVE** in a young exciting and growing church? County Line Baptist Church is seeking part-time (for now) praise & worship leader contemporary music. Mail Resumes to Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 578, Crystal Springs, MS 39059-9715, pastor (662) 312-8564 (cell) or church (601) 892-1151.

**ARE YOU LOOKING TO SERVE** in a young exciting and growing church? County Line Baptist Church is seeking part-time (for now) youth pastor. Mail resumes to youth pastor search committee, P.O. Box 578, Crystal Springs, MS 39059-9715 or call pastor's cell number (662) 312-8564 or church (601) 892-1151.

**MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH,** is seeking someone to lead congregational singing, and to direct our choir during cantata musicals. If interested, please send your up-to-date resume, along with references, to 814 Marwood Loop SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629. If you have questions, call pastor Rev. Danny Moss at (601) 833-8858.

**BRIAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH,** seeking a full-time associate pastor of music and worship ministries. Please mail all resumes to Briar Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 129, Florence, MS 39073, attn: music search committee by 8/27/07.

**CLEARY BAPTIST CHURCH,** Florence, Miss., seeks a part-time children's minister. Please submit resumes to M. Vance, 129 N. Eagle Ridge Drive, Florence, MS 39073.

**MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH,** Independence, Miss., seeks a part-time youth minister. Please submit resumes to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, P.O. Box 155, Independence, MS 38638.

## Classified Ads

**REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE:** Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Cara Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit [www.turnerinsuranceonline.com](http://www.turnerinsuranceonline.com).

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**STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL** since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. **HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM** church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY,** free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**NEW ENGLAND MOTORCOACH TOUR:** Oct. 1-10. Cape Cod, Stur Bridge Village Von Trapp Family Lodge, Brooklyn Tabernacle worship service, Psalms of David, Lancaster, PA. 17 states, bus, lodging, admission, 20 meals, 9 nights, 10 days, \$1750. Double occ., Purpose Driven Tours (601) 371-8733. Many other trips available or will plan for your group.

**DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES.** Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

**SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON,** Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

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**SEEKING MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Church averages over 900 in worship. Multiple services include hymns, choir music and contemporary music. We are praying for a Godly minister who can help lead our church to the next level of worship. Send resumes to search committee, 501 W. Sixth Str., Muscle Shoals, AL 35661.

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# Practical Principles for Christian Living

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 8



## Riding Off In All Directions

By Jimmy Porter



My preaching professor in seminary asked, "How many points should a sermon have?" After a variety of answers he stated that it should have only one point. Then he remarked,

"Some of your sermons remind me of the man who got on his horse and rode off in all directions." I feel like that rider because there are several things I need to cover in this one article. So here we go!

**PENNIES** — First, we are still collecting pennies. We have 40 plus million and they are still coming in daily. Hopefully by the time the convention is over this year we will have reached our goal. Many of you have taken this seriously and have done a wonderful job in helping present a visual picture to Mississippi just how horrible abortion is. You are encouraged to make one more effort to help make this a reality.

Keep in mind that a check made out to MBCB and marked to The Memorial to the Missing is acceptable. We will take the money and turn it into pennies. These gifts will forever aid in helping pro-life causes in our state.

Along these lines I am happy to say that Mississippi has raised \$1,171,968.00 in Choose Life license plate sales. When we struggled to get this through the legislature I never dreamed it would be so successful. The Pro-Life community throughout our state thanks those of you who purchase these tags each year. We rank second in sales behind the state of Florida. There are some boys and girls alive today because you cared enough to buy a tag and that tag helped fund a center somewhere in Mississippi that gave sound advice to a young pregnant girl.

**GAMBLING** — September 16th is Anti-Gambling Sunday emphasis in the Southern Baptist Convention. Many churches will highlight the negative affect this practice has had on families. The Christian Life Report, a newsletter of the Alabama Baptist Christian Life

Commission, states that gambling is taking its toll on senior adults. They are wagering more than they can afford and opportunities to gamble are multiplying. A wager of some type is now legal in every state except Utah and Hawaii.

Earl L. Grinols, professor of economics at Baylor University, states, "Gambling leads to increased crime, to suicides and to people ruining their lives when they get caught up in it." It is also a proven fact that personal bankruptcy rates in counties with casinos increase astronomically more than counties without casinos. In our state there is a growing apathy toward gambling but it is imperative that we do all we can to prohibit further expansion.

**VOTING** — The first primary is over. There are still some runoffs that will decide the candidates who will be on the ballot in November. You are urged to go vote in these runoffs — they are critical for good government. Between now and the general election in November you will have ample time to question each candidate as to their

beliefs and values. The Christian Action Commission can not tell you how to vote but there are some questions that each candidate needs to answer before they get my vote. Personally I want to know if they will take a stand against further expansion of gambling. They must be willing to support legislation that will protect the unborn. They must make a determined effort to provide a quality education for all the children of Mississippi. Finally I want my candidate to review the tax structure especially as it pertains to the cigarette tax. The data is in and we know cigarettes and second-hand smoke kills and cost us millions in tax dollars each year. This is a moral issue and our taxes should not be the third lowest in the nation. Ask the candidates how they voted and where they stand on these and other issues and then cast an intelligent vote.

You are always welcome to call the Christian Action Commission to discuss these and other issues or you can e-mail me at [jporter@christianaction.com](mailto:jporter@christianaction.com). Make your vote count for a better Mississippi.



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## THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## School Needs List:



- X-Large back packs for High School students
- 8 basic color water color paint sets
- Adult-sized (no pocket) white t-shirts
- Clorox wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Math flash cards
- Ultra-fine and fine point Sharpie brand markers
- Zip-Lock One Zip storage bags (gallon and quart)
- Paperback dictionaries
- Poster board
- Science fair boards



Ross and Yerger Insurance, Inc. recently delivered 10 large bulletin boards for our teenage girls in Mize-Miller Cottage to enjoy. They also provided several other much needed items including a wet-dry vac for the Properties staff and a digital camera for our Dickerson Place Campus. The BCV is grateful for, and overwhelmed by, the generosity of Peggy Yates and the other employees at Ross and Yerger, and their quick response to these needs.



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## When Sickness Strikes

2 Kings 5:1-5, 8-16

By Laura Leathers

It has been three years since my friend went to the doctor for what was going to be "routine tests." Instead she found herself preparing for heart angioplasty. Then the routine procedure turned into a major heart attack, a code 99, five trips for catheterizations, four stents, and congestive heart failure. Today, she lives with only 25% of her heart muscle functioning. Within a matter of minutes her life was forever changed. Daily she faces her illness — heart disease. There are days when she finds herself looking down instead of up, yet she knows she is not without hope.

How do you look up when life gets you down? The answer lies in knowing "God is greater than our illnesses and He compassionately helps those who humbly trust Him" (Lifeway).

Healing may or may not occur, but His grace is always available (2 Cor. 12:9-10) — His healing grace or His sustaining grace. Today's lesson helps us to see ...

### 1. Sickness Can Strike Anyone (2 Kings 5:1-5)

Within the first verse we learn Naaman was second in command to the king of Syria and his military success was due to the Lord's intervention. Naaman was "also a mighty man of valor," "but a leper" (a serious skin disease, see Lev. 13, 14).

In verse 2 we learn a young Israelite girl, captured from one of the raids into Israel, became a servant within his home. Once again, we see the Lord's providence. She knew the Healer of all diseases and told her mistress, "If only my master were with the

prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." At the time, Naaman may not have realized he was about to embark on a journey which would help him to know the God of Israel.

Taking her advice and information, Naaman, the supreme commander, developed a comprehensive health plan and took steps to put it into force.

### 2. God's Ways are not Always Understood (2 Kings 5:8-12)

Naaman left Syria with the king's permission, a letter of introduction, and his health plan which included gifts of silver, gold, and ten changes of clothing. The Israelite girl mentioned nothing about gifts; only to visit the prophet.

Israel's King Joram reads the letter, tears his clothes (a sign of distress and grief), and says, "Am I God, to kill and make alive ... ?" Was a major battle about to ensue? Elisha, hearing about the king's distress, sent word for the king to send Naaman to him,

"and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

Naaman arrives at Elisha's door with his horses and chariot. John MacArthur writes, "Because of his personal greatness (v. 1), his huge gift (v. 5), and diplomatic letter (v. 6), Naaman expected personal attention to his need. However, Elisha did not even go out to meet him. Instead, he sent his instructions for healing through a messenger (v. 10). Naaman was angry because he anticipated a personal cleansing ceremony from the prophet himself." (MacArthur Study Bible, page 523).

Furious, Naaman left and wrote his own prescription plan (v. 12). However, through his servants' encouragement he would come to understand God's perfect way (2 Sam. 22:31).

### 3. God's Grace is Available (2 Kings 5:13-16)

Humbly, Naaman chucks his health plan and chooses God's grace plan — "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." His flesh restored like the flesh

of a little child, he was healed not only physically, but spiritually (see Luke 4:27). For "now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel."

The miracle which took place in Naaman's life was his salvation. As a result he returned to Syria as a believer in Jehovah with a new ministry; sharing God's grace with others (vs. 17-19).

An opportunity which has grown out of my friend's illness is the ability to fulfill her dream of being an artist. Her painting entitled, "Wear Red for Women's Hearts" was chosen by the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease and is displayed in their headquarters in Washington D.C. Additionally, she is a spokeswoman for women with heart disease. This has opened the doors for a new ministry for her: sharing Christ and the hope found only through knowing Him. He is her sustaining grace. Together we have learned there is "A Cup of Hope for Hearts" — His grace is available to everyone!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Live Honorably

Malachi 2:1-2, 8-16

By Charles Rodgers

To a great extent we are all victims of our culture. Whatever the cultural norms, we embrace them. These are days of moral and ethical compromise, and truth has become relative. What is considered wrong for one person may be considered right for another. Biblical truths are commonly rejected in favor of just believing and doing whatever feels good or right. Every person does what they feel is right in their own eyes. Cultural standards are established and maintained on the basis of personal desire and satisfaction. We have become too familiar with selfish ambition, approximate truth, and pretentious commitment. Honor and respect are merely words that carry no weight. We make

empty and shallow commitments today that we never intend to fulfill. This is the culture that we live in, the culture that guides us.

While all of this may be true, this certainly is not God's will for His children. God expects those who know Him to honor their commitments and obligations to Him and to each other. Malachi expresses concern over the priests' failure to fulfill their God-given responsibilities and the people's failure to be faithful to one another and to God. The emphasis is on faithfully fulfilling responsibilities to God and to one another. We are challenged to honor our obligations to God and to each other. He presents three challenges for God's people as they seek to live honorably before Him.



Rodgers

### I. Stand for God's Truth — Malachi 2:1-2; 8-9

Malachi accuses the priests of not only showing indifference in the performance of certain aspects of their ministry (1:6-14), but also in the neglecting of their instructional duties. It was an indictment against the priests that they themselves were not living God-honoring lives, and that they were causing others to fall away from God as well. Along with the accusation, God also warns them of a curse that He has already placed upon them. They have not lived up to the priestly covenants and therefore will lose certain benefits available to the priests by the people. In addition, they would suffer humiliation at the hands of the people and would literally become despised.

God expects all believers to learn and to live by the teachings of His Word. He also expects us to accurately teach others how to live by His Word. We are to teach, both by word of mouth and by example, God's

unvarnished truth. We are to stand by God's truth so that God might be honored, so that we might be respected, and so that others might not stumble.

### II. Set a Godly Example — Malachi 2:10-12

The prophet presents further evidence of Israel's failure to appropriately respond to God's love. He moves from specific accusations against the priests to a general rebuke of the people. He begins by reminding them of the common fellowship they have with God and with each other. The truth is that if God's people are going to live honorable lives, they must learn to live in harmony and peace with each other. They are not to break faith with each other. Doing so contaminates the holiness of the relationship between God and His people. He uses an example to validate his point. It is the example of the people divorcing their Jewish wives to marry foreign wives, something specifically forbidden in the covenant of the fathers (Exodus 19:5ff; 24:8). It is an example of faithlessness that Malachi says should not be prac-

ticed by God-honoring people.

Because God's people are all part of God's family, they are to relate openly and honestly to one another in ways that set a Godly example for their churches.

### III. Stick With Commitments — Malachi 2:13-16

Malachi uses divorce and remarriage as an example of how God's people practice unfaithfulness toward Him. The language seems to be very strong in denouncing divorce, and yet, it seems that the greater message here is that husbands and wives should be faithful to the vows they made to God and one another. God desires that marriage partners work hard at keeping their marriage commitments because of the impact that divorce has on the couple as well as the children. God wants His people to develop and maintain relationships that provide good models for the generations to come.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**



# LifeWay study: Young adults at risk for dropping out

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A new study from LifeWay Research reveals that more than two-thirds of young adults who attend a Protestant church for at least a year in high school will stop attending church regularly for at least a year between the ages of 18-22.

LifeWay Research conducted the survey of more than 1,000 adults ages 18-30 in April and May. Each indicated that they had attended a Protestant church regularly for at least a year in high school.

According to the study, 70% of young adults ages 23-30 stopped attending church regularly for at least a year between ages 18-22.

In most cases, the decision to leave was not planned far in advance. Only 2% of these "church dropouts" agree that while they were attending church regularly in high school they "planned on taking a break from church once [they] finished high school."

Among those who predetermined to leave church, few told anyone about their desire. One reflected, "I just told my parents I didn't like it," rather than sharing an intention to actually leave. Another said, "I kept my feelings secret for fear of losing my friends."

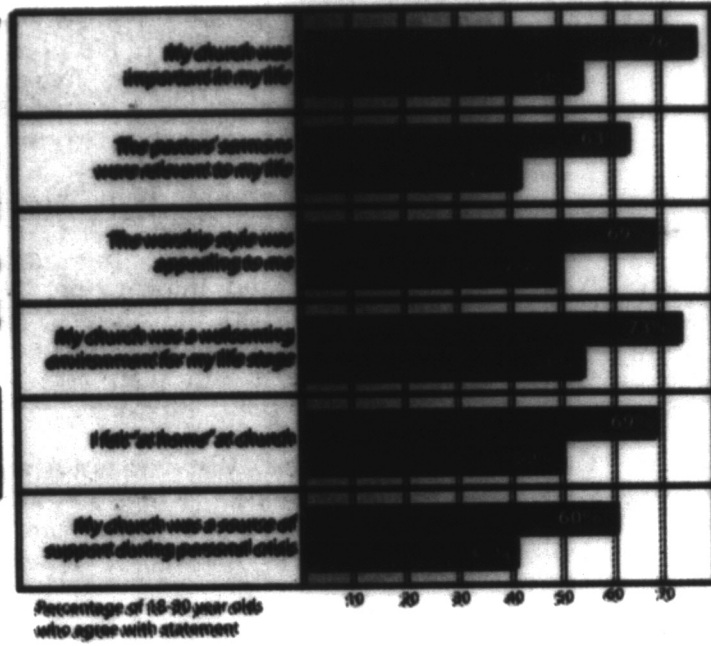
"Lots of alarming numbers have been tossed around regarding church dropouts," said Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research, the research arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. "We wanted to get at the real situation with clear research — and there is some bad news here, no question, but there are also some important solutions to be found in the research. When we know why people drop out, we can address how to help better connect them."

## Young adults' perceptions of church attended prior to age 18

People who between the ages of 18-22

Stayed in church  
Dropped out of church

LifeWay  
RESEARCH  
www.lifewayresearch.com



Ninety-seven percent of church dropouts list a so-called life change or life situation as the reason for leaving. Among those reasons listed by dropouts:

- "I simply wanted a break from church" (27%).
- "I moved to college and stopped attending church" (25%).
- "Work responsibilities prevented me from attending" (23%).
- "I moved too far away from the church to continue attending" (22%).

A previous LifeWay Research study of church switchers confirmed that a residential move is the most frequent reason adults switch churches.

"A move beyond your local community breaks the existing ties to a local church," said Scott McConnell, associate

director of LifeWay Research. "It requires intentional effort to search for a new church home that may not occur immediately, even for those interested in church."

How young people use their time and the relationships they choose can also lead them away from church. Twenty-two per cent "became too busy, though still wanted to attend," and 17% "chose to spend more time with friends outside the church."

"In our three studies related to church attendance practices: 'The Formerly Churched,' 'Church Switchers' and now the 'Teenage Dropout' study, one thing is abundantly clear," said Brad Waggoner, vice president of research and ministry development at LifeWay. "Relationships are often the glue that keep people in

church or serves as the attraction to begin attending again following a period of absenteeism. Many people are deeply influenced by friends and loved ones."

Waggoner advised, "Church leaders should passionately and consistently challenge church members to maximize their influence with youth and young adults. Frequent and intentional contact can either prevent or counteract the tendency of some to drop out of church."

Fifty-eight percent of church dropouts selected at least one church or pastor-related reason for leaving church. Most common was, "church members seemed judgmental or hypocritical" (26%). Another 20% "didn't feel connected to the people in my church."

The final category of reasons, "religious, ethical or political beliefs," contributed to the departure of 52% of church dropouts. Two reasons for leaving reflect this category: "I disagreed with the church's stance on political or social issues" (18%) and "I was only going to church to please others" (17%).

Although they only represent 30% of those who attended a Protestant church for at least a year in high school, young adults who stay in church through ages 18-22 see the relevance, benefits and purpose of the church now and for their future. Among the most common reasons were:

- "Church was a vital part of my relationship with God" (65%).
- "I wanted the church to help guide my decisions in everyday life" (58%).
- "I felt that church was helping me become a better person" (50%).
- "[I was] committed to the purpose and work of the church" (42%).

## Parents and churches instrumental in young adults' attendance

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Parents and churches together can help their teenagers decide to stay in church as young adults, new research from LifeWay Christian Resources indicates.

Despite appearances, teens do want guidance when it comes to the decisions they face in everyday life, and parents and churches who meet those needs make it more likely those teens will stay in church as young adults, according to the survey of more than 1,000 adults ages 18-30. LifeWay Research conducted the survey in April and May 2007.

While the study revealed that 70% of young adults ages 23-30 stopped attending church regularly for at least a year between 18-22, it also indicated several tangible ways parents and churches could make them more likely to stay in church.

Two-thirds of the teens who stay in church as young adults describe the church as "a vital part of my relationship with God" — demonstrating the importance of each teen having a strong relationship with God, as well as the importance of church attendance, said Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research.

"Teens are looking for more from a youth ministry than a holding tank with pizza," Stetzer said. "They look for a church that teaches them how to live life. As they enter young adulthood, church involvement that has made a difference in their lives gives them a powerful reason to keep attending."

By ages 18-22, attending church has become a matter of choice and young adults can be very pragmatic in making

that choice, added Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research.

"Gone are the days in which young adults attend because they are 'supposed to,'" McConnell said. "Only 10% of those who continued attending church did so to please others. Young adults whose faith truly became integrated into their life as teens are much more likely to stay in church. If church did not prove its value during their teen years, young adults won't want to attend and won't attend."

Teens who find their pastor's sermons relevant to everyday life also are more likely to keep attending as young adults, the research indicated. Sixty-three percent of those who stayed in church said their pastors' sermons were relevant. A similar margin said the worship style of the church they attended as teens was appealing to them.

"Attending worship is the basic level of involvement for most who attend church at all. Many never add to or go beyond this as teens," McConnell said. "If as teens they can't relate to the sermons at their church or don't enjoy the worship style, then as young adults they can easily fall away from their only connection to the church."

"While it is a constant challenge for a pastor to communicate biblical truth to multiple generations simultaneously, the importance of targeting teens with the message is clear," McConnell added.

Teens who had adults from church make a significant time investment in their lives also were more likely to keep attending church. Forty-six percent of those who stayed in church said five or

more adults at church had invested time with them personally and spiritually.

"The Bible teaches that older women should mentor and invest their lives in younger women. Clearly, this holds true for both of the sexes," Stetzer said. "When adults pour their lives into young adults, both are better for it."

Meaningful relationships with adults at church helps teenagers see church as a place they belong, McConnell said.

"Investment time in young people lives out the love of Jesus Christ in a tangible way," he said. "It proves that a young person belongs at church. It can help connect the dots to help a teen integrate their faith into their life. And it gives the teen a connection to church after graduation when many of their peers are no longer around."

"Anybody wondering if they can make a difference can stop wondering," McConnell noted. "One Sunday school teacher, one chaperone, one discussion leader, one person at church who clearly cares can impact the course of a teen's spiritual journey."

Teens who, at age 17, have parents who are authentic examples of Christian faith — proactive and consistent in living out their faith — also are more likely to keep attending as young adults. Across the board, 20% more of those who stayed in church indicated they had parents or family members who discussed spiritual things, gave them spiritual guidance and prayed together.

"Despite the conflicts that often occur during these years, it is difficult to understate the impact of a solid family involved

in the faith community on the future involvement of teens," Stetzer said. "And that isn't something that can be faked."

Youth are experts at noticing inconsistencies between what parents say and do, McConnell added.

"Simply attending church is a positive influence toward the teen continuing as a young adult," he said. "However, any sign that parents have second thoughts is a negative influence. These seeds of doubt include only one parent attending, parents not agreeing on a denomination, and a gap between beliefs at church and life in the home."

Of course, many factors in a teen's life are beyond the control of both parents and church leaders, McConnell noted.

"Many teens have parents who are separated or divorced," he said. "A church's worship style won't and can't appeal to everyone, but this is an exciting study because it shows there are several tangible things parents and churches can do to prepare teens to want to stay in church."

While parents and church members can have a real impact on keeping young adults in church, they don't control the decision, Stetzer added.

"Whether teens are bombarded with positive or negative influences about church, they all make their own decisions about whether to continue or stop attending," he said. "This study shows the benefit of parents and church members faithfully doing their part, but in the final analysis, we must leave it in the hands of God to work in their lives."